



Deeping St. James

The Deepings Third Age Group

Reg. Charity No: 1166782

NEWSLETTER

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Market Deeping

Issue No. 185

JANUARY 2019

“A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL” ...(we hope!).

Chairman’s Reflections



Well, it’s here, another year of challenges and opportunities for us to deal with! I have moments when I think that I should feel guilty about the way that I spent Christmas, which some would consider selfish and anti-social, but I quickly overcome them. Without any offence intended to those who have very kindly shared past Christmases with me, I can honestly say that I enjoyed this year more than the last five. The months before Christmas had been busy and tiring, and it was very nice to just turn off and relax in peace. I did of course have fantasies about tackling a few of the non-essential jobs that had not been done last year, because of lack of time. The first mistake was to list these. The resultant list was rather large, and that wasted several hours, looking at the list like a rabbit caught in the headlights of an oncoming car, and ended up actually doing very few of them! There will be no list produced next year!



Our thanks to Geoff Christophers, Jo Astle, Terry Noble and Phil Astle, not forgetting our ‘Master of Ceremonies’ Garth, for entertaining us with music

and jokes(?) at our meeting in December. (Sorry not better pic of Jo, will try to do better next year!)

Committee Members 2018/2019

Garth Perry	Chairman
Ann Parkes	Secretary
Anne Burton	Treasurer
Liz Noble	Membership Secretary
Susanne Hoadley	Groups Coordinator
Phil Jones	Deputy Gps Co-ordinator
Kath Allen	
Lyall Seale	Co-opted
Ann Holmes	Newsletter Editor
David Scott	Newsletter Distribution/ Webmaster

Programme of Speakers

2019

21 January **BEES AND BEEKEEPING** by Sue Jakeman, a former Beekeeper dressed in her protective kit, will tell us about the lives of bees in hives; how the workers bring in the pollen and make honey; the elements of a hive and how to keep the occupants healthy.

18 February **DEEPING LAKES** by David Mainwaring one of the volunteers, who will tell us about how the flooded gravel pits became a nature reserve; the work that has been carried out since to make the facility we see now, and future development plans.

18 March **FAKES AND FORGERIES** by Malcolm Underwood

Unless otherwise stated all monthly meetings are at **THE METHODIST CHURCH**, Deeping St. James. Doors open at 9.30 am. To enable us to set out chairs, etc., **please do not arrive before this time.** Coffee served until 10.20 and meetings begin at 10.30 am.

U3A DIARY

(possibly the best diary in the world?)
Just two (2) left !

If someone will please buy them June promises not to mention the words Diaries for sale again until at least next October.

At £2.50 each they are good value so if you would like one **PLEASE** ring June .

I did do a bit of “de-cluttering”, but not very efficiently, as the mind wandered off in all sorts of direction as each item was revealed. It took me back to my childhood, at home in Plymouth, when my Mother used to enlist my help in “tidying up” the overflowing drawers and cupboards. She used to line the drawers with newspaper, and, inevitably, once all the contents of the drawer had been turned out, curiosity led to the need to read the yellowing pages of newspaper. This usually resulted in a clipped ear, for not getting on with the job in hand!

After the very welcomed restful period, getting back into the normal busy routine has proved difficult. In particular, I was surprised at how the relative lack of exercise over a week or so had affected me. On the 2nd of January the Badminton Club had decided to make an earlier than usual resumption of hostilities, and on the 3rd I was with a group, hedge-laying at Deeping Lakes. On the next day, once I had emerged late from my bed, I was more bent over than the hedging!

Just when I thought that I had got back into the swing of things, and was more “with it”, a discovery this morning showed that I must still be in a bit of a daze! On Saturday morning, in response to the appealing and reproachful stares of the robin and sparrows lined up on the back fence, I dashed out in the drizzle to refill the bird feeders. I noticed, while doing this, that there was an unusual quantity of leaves from the adjacent bamboo, and a couple of broken bits of pyracantha on the path. Being in a rush to meet my Daughter for breakfast, and with head bowed against the weather, I scurried back indoors, and then went out, not giving it a further thought.

Imagine my surprise this morning, when I opened the curtains, and spotted that someone had flailed or cut the top of the pyracantha behind the back wall! Whoever it was, I am very grateful for the assistance in the taming of the shrub – one less job to do! Perhaps there is hope for this year after all!

With all good wishes for the New Year,

Garth
Chairman

IMPORTANT CORRECTION

If you are intending to attend the next meeting of the U3A Antiques and Collectables Group please note the date given in the December Newsletter is incorrect. The meeting will be held on 28 JANUARY at the usual venue—The Catholic Church, Hereward Way, Deeping St. James.

GROUP NEWS

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you have made resolutions to join more groups in 2019!

If you want to keep fit we have table tennis or a walking group for dog walkers; if you would like to stay inside in the warm how about a new Craft Group? If any of these sound up your street please sign up at the monthly meeting or contact me by phone or email—details below.

A gentle reminder for all group leaders, please make sure the members attending your meetings are all registered and paid up for this year (2018/2019). Many thanks.

Don't forget if you have any ideas for new groups, or any other problems relating to groups, please let me know.

SUSANNE HOADLEY
Groups Co-ordinator,

Following report omitted from last Newsletter. Apologies. ANN

U3A POETS AND POETRY GROUP

We met at Susanne's home for our December meeting and our theme this month was 'Winter or Christmas'.

We started off on the humorous side with Pam Ayres and 'Goodwill to All Men', followed by John Mole's 'At the Pantomime' and Alison Chisholm's 'The Office Party', all very funny and we had a good laugh. We continued with Sarah Teasdale's 'A Winter Blue Jay', from Placide de Roquemart 'O holy night' Robert Bridges' 'London Snow'; Harold Massingham's 'Winter in Wensleydale' and Ralph Waldo Emerson's 'Snow Storm'; altogether a very good selection and a most entertaining afternoon.

Thanks to Susanne for hosting the meeting, keeping us warm on a cold day, and the lovely refreshments. It was decided not to have a meeting in January, so our next meeting will be on February 4th 2019 at Juliet's home at 2pm.

IRENE BEEKEN
Group Leader

U3A WRITING FOR PLEASURE GROUP

We started the New Year with an enjoyable meeting listening to a variety of pieces including several poems. The subjects were all different, but most were taken from a list Julie gave us a while ago.

We still have space in our writing group for one or two new members. If you enjoy writing do come along one morning and see (and hear) what we do. No special writing skill required, just a willingness to have a go. We are a friendly group and very much enjoy the social aspect of meeting together.

JUDY ROBINSON
Group Leader

U3A "OVER THE GARDEN WALL" GARDENING GROUP

I would like to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Our December meeting was a joint meeting with Gardening 4 Petals and Produce group. It was an afternoon tea at Waterside Garden Centre. Twenty two people attended and everyone seemed to enjoy it as a change from a Christmas Meal.

Our next meeting is on January 29th 2019, at 10.00 am at Waterside Garden Centre. Topic: Confirmation of this year's programme.

Group leaders: MARGARET GRIFFITHS / JOSIE SMITH



U3A 'BOOKWORMS' READING GROUP

"The Book of Summers" by Emylia Hsll

Elizabeth Lowe lives with her father in a quiet Devonshire village but for seven years, from the age of nine, she spent two weeks each summer in rural Hungary with Marika, her Hungarian mother who now lives with Zoltan, an artist. They enjoy a happy, carefree time and as she grows older, Elizabeth loves the Hungarian way of life more and more and at sixteen decides to stay there permanently. However, a revelation is a terrible shock to her and she hurriedly returns to England.

The Book of Summers is the first novel by the author who is herself half-Hungarian. It is a good story with a twist and is well written, dealing with the development of a girl from childhood to adolescence and the sense of identity. Perhaps a bit long with repetition and the excessive detail of observation – but a pleasant read.

Next meeting at June's home, 2pm on Monday, 28th January, 2019.

Report by: NANCY TITMAN
Group Leader: ANN THORNTHWAITE

U3A HISTORY GROUP

This month 48 of our members met at The Sports and Social Club at Outgang Road. We had our annual Christmas meal which was served by Rachael and her team from Clarke's Catering Company. The consensus of opinion was 'delicious'.



Many thanks to Rachael and also to Barbara McNichol who organised the event with such patience and efficiency. She was helped by the History administrators (ladies on the desk) who helped collate numbers and money each month leading up to the event. A big thank You to Ann Parkes who is the person responsible for the financial aspects of our group. Also to Lesley Evans who arranges our programme each year. Without these hard working volunteers, the group would cease to exist. Thank you to our tea and coffee ladies, our furniture movers and our technical director (David). Thank you to the report writers and everyone who attends each month.

Apologies if we have missed anyone out! Have a Happy and Healthy 2019! Where is the time going! Best Wishes from Liz and myself.

Report: SANDRA JONES
Group Leaders: SANDRA JONES / ELIZABETH PARKINSON

Am sure the Group members would like me to add our thanks to both Sandra and Liz for their work on our behalf too. ANN

U3A CRAFT GROUP 3



At our first meeting of the new year we welcomed two new ladies to our group where we all enjoyed making patchwork Iris folding cards of Hedgehogs.

Next month we are going to try to make some crochet toys.

ANITA SETCHFIELD
Group Leader

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Diane Sanger, Maxey and Jackie O'Hare, and Anna Jolly, Deeping St James.



U3A QUILTING GROUP



The first quilting meeting of the New Year was led by Liz. The theme was 'Log Cabin'. We were amazed at how many ways there were to undertake making this traditional block and what a difference the materials chosen made. Our thanks go to Liz for putting so much hard work in preparing this and other sessions for us.

The next session will be to chose a completed block from one of the techniques learnt from the beginning of the course and how to put it together to complete an article such as a cushion cover.

Group leader: MARGARET GRIFFITHS

U3A GOOD FOOD GROUP



A select few of the Foodie group met at Hilary's to sample Mexican dishes. For the first time we had a duplicate dish which was Mexican chicken and quinoa but they were slightly different and equally delicious. We started with Beef Tostadas with avocado corn salsa and ended on a light dessert of creme caramel flavoured with Grand Marnier.

It is now time to tighten our belts and so next month Sheila will be hosting a meal of vegan dishes! Report: HILARY AKAM

Group Leader: KATHLEEN TANNER 3236

U3A SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

This Group has chosen the "Wagon and Horses", Langtoft for their first venue for Sunday Lunch this year. As usual it is on the fourth Sunday of the month—27 January, 12.30 for 1.00 pm.



If you are planning to attend, please notify Tony Semple or Michael Griffiths or add your name to the board at the meeting on Monday, 21 January.

U3A WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP

Our first meeting of 2019 was held at Sue's home at Maxey. Over the Christmas period Sue always walks round her garden and counts the number of plants and shrubs which are in flower.

This year the total was 27.

A discussion then followed as to what was in the small vase on the table with members of the group writing down names of anything they liked but did not necessarily know - chimonanthus and lonicera fragrantissima. There were also some daffodils, early iris, heathers etc. (Photo shows 'Christmas Roses').

Angela's husband John had printed our programmes as he has done for several years and for this we are very grateful. These were distributed and discussed at some length. Sue had provided home made cakes, tea and coffee and it was a very relaxed meeting.

Report: JEAN FOSTER

Photo: PAM READY

Group Leaders: JEAN FOSTER / JANE COOKE



U3A ART APPRECIATION GROUP



Our November meeting saw the welcome return of artist Jackie Devereux. Her topic was "Travels with my Nib", focusing on interesting encounters whilst sketching in exotic places and the "feel good factor" of being able to interact with local people – and even penguins in the Antarctic! Jackie showed slides and brought examples of her work, illustrating how, on travels and encounters near and far, she sketches and paints images which she then develops in the studio. She sometimes uses materials such as antique papers to overlay part of the image and create a multi-dimensional effect. Jackie also brought to show us the artists' tools and materials she uses on her travels.



In December local artist Ellie Sandall came to talk to us about the popular children's picture books, the "Everybunny" series, which she writes and illustrates. Ellie always knew she wanted a career in art and studied Graphic Design at Bath University, followed by an MA in Children's Book Illustration at Cambridge College of Art. Her interesting talk explained the creative process and involvement with the publisher from the initial sketches to the finished bound books. One or two small relatives of the group will have enjoyed receiving signed copies of one of the books this Christmas! Report: MARGARET BEARDSHAW

Group Leaders: SANDRA JONES / YVONNE McCULLOCH

U3A 'WANDERERS' WALKING GROUP



Amazingly the sun shone and the temperature was a balmy 9c at The Boathouse at Thorpe Meadows as seventeen Wanderers set out for our first wander of 2019.

The route took us past the lake at Peterborough Rowing Club and along the north bank of the Nene towards Ferry Meadows. Following the Nene Way we went under the Parkway, along the golf course and then crossed over the river. At this point we met a walking group from Peterborough U3A who were also out taking advantage of the brilliant weather. Skirting Overton Lake we recrossed the Nene at Milton Ferry Bridge and returned through the Bluebell Walk Plantation to The Boathouse and a welcome meal.

The next Wander will be on the 12th of February and details will be sent in the usual way.

BARRY & HILARY AKAM
Group Leaders

U3A "PACERS" WALKING GROUP

The new year found us at Ferry Meadows to start walking off all the Christmas and New Year indulgencies. There was a good turnout of 15 members of the walking group. We started off from the water sports centre car park and had a leisurely 4.5 mile walk up to the station and onward through the bird sanctuary. We saw squirrels, blue tits, a wren and grebe from the hides; we also passed very close to two herons.



We carried on round the back of the water sports lake and returned to the water sports centre. We had planned to eat at the café but they had not allowed us to pre-book and when we returned the café was full. Not to be put off we went to the Granary and enjoyed a nice lunch.

The next walk will be on the 6th February and led by Geoff Whittle from the Crab & Winkle in Werrington and will take us to Marholm.

LYNN & STEVE WHITE
Group Leaders

U3A "STROLLER'S" WALKING GROUP

Our first stroll of this year will be in the Helpston area. The start point will be the car park of the Blue Bell, meeting at 10:15. Members of the group who wish to take part should contact me as walk leader -



BOB DELLER
Group Leader

U3A MONDAY WALKING GROUP



Thirty one of us set off from The Sugar Mill, Bourne on crisp overcast morning. There were a few intermittent showers, which we don't usually have on Monday Walks !!!

The walk took us through part of Bourne, then into Bourne Woods. Here we were expecting mud, but fortunately it was not too bad. Would have been somewhat different had we previously had rain. A part circular route through the woods took us to West Street where various paths took us back to the pub. As usual slight variations in distance, so let's say approx six miles. Thanks to Brian and Nora for leading the walk .

Our February walk will be led by David Scott, details to follow.

STEVE HANSON
Group Leader

U3A THURSDAY WALKING GROUP



On a mild January morning, our 2019 programme got off to a good start with 26 members on a very pleasant mud free walk led by Brian Littler. Commencing from the Five Bells Inn at Morton we headed south across grass fields until the village of Dyke was reached, from where we turned west, crossing the A15 before arriving at the small hamlet of Cawthorpe. Leaving this hamlet we then proceeded along Wood Lane and into and through Fox Wood before heading on a north easterly route back to Morton and across the A15 to the pub for a very nice hot meal. Many thanks to Brian for organising the walk and arranging the lunch.

The next walk on 14 February, to be led by Steve Hanson, will be around the Castor/ Castor Hanglands and Upton area commencing from The Prince of Wales Feathers, 38 Peterborough Road, Castor PE5 7AL. If you would like to attend this walk, could you please phone Steve by the Tuesday evening preceding the walk, if possible, and also indicating whether you will be staying for lunch.

GODFREY PARKES
Group Leader

Photo: DAVID SCOTT

Usually the Walking Group reports come in at different times, mostly during the week I am putting the newsletter together and I try to put them on different pages, mixed with the other group reports. Due to the calendar this month they all arrived more or less together so I decided to print them on the same page to make it easier for you to compare routes, weather, etc. ANN

U3A CRAFT GROUP 2

We did meet after the Christmas meeting before Christmas, and planned our belated "Christmas" lunch for January and a few ideas for future meetings.

Kath Allen has plans for beadwork at the January meeting at 2pm on January 21. Look forward to seeing you there. Photo: KATH ALLEN

LIZ NOBLE
Group Leader



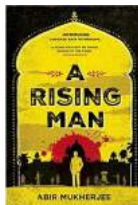
U3A MONDAY READERS GROUP

We had a cracking book to discuss at our first meeting of the New Year. Let's hope the rest of 2019's books are up to the same standard!

Our book was *A Rising Man* by *Abir Mukherjee* and the whole group thoroughly enjoyed it. Set in India in 1919, at the time when the Indian independence movements were beginning to gain ground, the story concerns an English police officer who is recruited to head up a new post in Calcutta. Trying to escape from his experiences in the Great War, Sam Wyndham is catapulted into the rich strangeness of an alien culture. His first task, within a few days, is to solve the murder of an apparent pillar of the British Raj.

Within the social and political minefield that was British India, the book is a clever and engaging detective story combined with an interesting historical novel. The characters are beautifully drawn and there is both humour and outrage at the life of the period. There are other books in the series which we are all looking forward to reading. Highly recommended.

LIZ WATERLAND
Group Leader



U3A FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Our speaker this month was Ernest Rushden who gave a very interesting talk on, "A Peterborough lad in the Australian Army in WW1".

Percy Charles Stanley Burks was born in 1893 in Fletton, Peterborough, and later attended The King's School. In 1909 he left school to work at J.R.Smart's accountancy firm in London and then worked as an apprentice in the pianoforte trade. In February 1914, he decided to leave England for Perth Australia, and by November of that year he had enlisted as a private in the Australian Army at Blackbay Hill, Western Australia.

He embarked at Freemantle bound for Gallipoli and then Malta but suffered frequent bouts of dysentery. He was sent back to Wandsworth Hospital London, to convalesce. Later he rejoined his unit and was transferred to the Lewis Gun Section and landed in Marseilles France in 1916. Percy was deemed to have died in August 1916 in the Battle of Pozieres. He has no grave but is commemorated as C.P. Burks on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial in France. Report: JOSIE SMITH

Group Leaders: JOSIE SMITH / JEAN BRENNAN



U3A SCIENCE GROUP

For our January meeting, we were joined by 12 members of Bourne U3A SciTech Group, as well as 30 Deepings U3A members, to welcome Keith Townsend. He lived up to his reputation as a very good and knowledgeable speaker, and gave us a very informative presentation, reviewing the past and present Mars exploration flights. This was superbly illustrated by a compilation of published photographs, videos, and data, mainly produced by NASA. The finale involved us wearing 3D glasses, for a tour of the surface of Mars.



Quite an act to try and follow! At our February meeting David MacVitie will be testing our knowledge with a Science Quiz – he assures us that it isn't a quiz to check if we were paying attention to last year's presentations! This meeting will be on Tuesday 19th February, at 2pm, at The Institute. Report: GARTH PERRY

Group Leaders: GARTH PERRY / DAVID SCOTT

U3A "WEEKENDERS" GROUP

Ann welcomed 32 members to the Oddfellows Hall on Saturday, January 12th for our first meeting of 2019. Our December meeting had been an enjoyable Christmas lunch for 32 members at the Oasis Restaurant, Waterside Garden Centre.



Ann asked members to think of ideas for activities this year. The first of these activities has been organized by Anita and is lunch at the Boundary at 12:30 on Wednesday, 23rd January. Anyone needing further details contact Anita. Our next meeting is on February 9th.

Report BARBARA MCNICOL
Group Leaders: ANN BRADSHAW / BARBARA MCNICOL

U3A ITALIAN CONVERSATION GROUP



Just a small number of our group were able to meet for lunch to celebrate Christmas and another good year of trying our very best to master the Italian language! We chose to visit the bistro of 'Driftwood' in Deeping St James and what a venue it is. Wonderful food and very good service. We definitely recommend it, As always, a good time was had by all.

LYNNE ALCORN
Group Leader

Sorry due to quality of photo
unable to produce better print. A

U3A LEARN PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP



Our group meal was at the 'Wagon and Horses' pub at Langtoft on Wednesday. It was a good turn out with 20 members and partners attending.

A lot of our Photography Group members visit the Deepings' Camera Club Exhibition every year. I know that, having welcomed them at past exhibitions at the Community Centre. This year the exhibition is on the 16th and 17th February, same venue. Some Deepings U3A members are also in the Camera Club and will have photographs on display. Please come along and view the Exhibition - admission free..

If any members in the U3A would like to join our Learn Photography Group, then you can ring or e-mail me. If you want your snaps to be a lot better, we can help you. Having problems with your camera, compact or digital, we can sort it out for you. We are a very friendly group, and meet every third Wednesday of the month, with refreshments. I look forward to hearing from you.

DAVE PENDRY
Group Leader

U3A "CHURCH MICE" GROUP



U3A "CHURCH MICE" GROUP

Eighteen members of the "Church Mice" group enjoyed a 'post Christmas' meal at the Waterside Garden Centre earlier this month.

Lyllal Seal thanked Group Leader Jim Pringle for organising the event.

The group's February meeting, on Tuesday, 12th February, will be at Kirton, near Boston. This visit was originally planned for Autumn 2018 but had to be postponed. Details will be circulated shortly.

Group Leaders:
JIM PRINGLE / SANDRA JONES

OUR 2018 CHRISTMAS PARTY



Photographs on this page were taken by David Scott and myself. More will be found on our web site. Please remember to check our site on a regular basis. David works hard to keep it interesting and up to date and will be pleased to add anything you may like to share with other members. ANN